# A MISSIONARY HEART

**Part 9 of The Savior King. Psalm 67.**

**Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. November 8, 2026.**

## GOD'S MISSIONARY HEART

**We're continuing our journey through Old Testament highlights,** and today we've arrived at an Old Testament **THEME** rather than a book or passage.

**The theme is God's missionary heart for the nations,** for all peoples, that they know and love him. God's missionary heart was revealed to Abraham:

> *Genesis 12:1-3 (CSB) The LORD said to Abram: Go from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

**We can trace the fulfillment** of the promised worldwide blessing down Abraham's family tree, through the Exodus, and to the founding of Israel as a nation. When King Solomon dedicated the Jerusalem temple, a portion of his prayer reflected God's missionary heart:

> *1 Kings 8:43 (CSB) Then all peoples of earth will know your name, to fear you as your people Israel do and to know that this temple I have built bears your name.*

**The promise to Abraham was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus,** the Savior of all who come to him in faith and the source of blessing for the nations. The prophet Isaiah predicted this:

> *Isaiah 49:6 (CSB) I will also make you a light for the nations, to be my salvation to the ends of the earth."*

## OUR MISSIONARY HEART

**God has a missionary heart, and he wants his people to have a missionary heart.**

When Jesus commissioned his apostles to be his witnesses, he told them to *"go … and make disciples of **all nations**."* Nowhere is off limits.

**The apostles died, but their commission did not.** Today, we're the worldwide disciple makers.

We want to reflect God's missionary heart for people in every nation. We want to see the scene in Revelation 7 come to pass:

> *Revelation 7:9-10 (CSB) After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!*

**Maintaining a missionary heart is challenging.** Life gets busy, and we get tired. We've got enough on our plate without worrying about the salvation of people we do not know around the world.

One way we can fuel the fire for the nations, if it has grown dim, is to pray for the nations. And one way to pray for the nations is to learn the prayers in Psalm 67 and add them to our prayer list:

**Let's read Psalm 67 now.**

## PSALM 67: THREE GOALS

**Psalm 67 describes three goals that we can ask for in prayer:** Let's explore all three now.

### GOAL ONE: BLESSING - verse 1

> *Psalms 67:1 (CSB) May God be gracious to us and bless us; may he make his face shine upon us.*

**Verse 1 links back to the High Priest's blessing** over Israel.

> *Numbers 6:22-27 (CSB) 22 The LORD spoke to Moses: 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. You should say to them, 24 "May the LORD bless you and protect you; 25 may the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 may the LORD look with favor on you and give you peace."' 27 In this way they will pronounce my name over the Israelites, and I will bless them."*

So, the psalmist begins by sort of "reminding" God that they are his covenant people, so please remember to give Israel your grace and favor as you promised to Abraham and Aaron.

**Should today's new covenant church pray for blessing?** Yes, why not? God is a good Father who cares for his people. A healthy, faithful, favored church testifies to the world about God's greatness and goodness.

**BUT … it's just as important to thank God in prayer** for the abundant blessings we already have in Christ. These are also a testimony to the world. Ephesians 1 is my go-to model for praise and thanksgiving:

> *Ephesians 1:3 (CSB) Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.*

## GOAL TWO: SALVATION - verse 2

*Psalms 67:2 (CSB) … so that your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.*

**Goal 2 is that the nations know God and his saving power.** A missionary heart would love the nations to turn to the Lord. We are blessed **SO THAT** salvation will come to the nations.

**How do the nations come to know God and his saving power?** Back then, the nations saw God's blessings on Israel and were drawn in to learn where the blessings came from. Two blessings are mentioned:

- According to verse 4, the nations would see that God is a righteous king and that people under his government are treated justly and fairly.
- According to verse 6, the nations would see Israel's abundant harvest and learn that God is a faithful, covenant-keeping God (Deuteronomy 11:13-14).

**In the psalmist's way of thinking,** God's blessings on Israel would draw nations in to see what was going on. Then, they would learn about the God of Israel, the source of those blessings, and turn to him for salvation - forgiveness of sins and new life with God.

**Today, in the New Covenant context,** we don't wait for people to come to us; we go to them to speak about God's blessings in Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul's prayer is a blueprint for us to follow:

*Ephesians 6:19-20 (CSB) Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. 20 For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.*

## GOAL THREE: PRAISE - verses 3-5

> *Psalms 67:3-5 (CSB) Let the peoples praise you, God; let all the peoples praise you. 4 Let the nations rejoice and shout for joy. 5 Let the peoples praise you, God, let all the peoples praise you.*

Here's the psalm's surprising revelation: Salvation is not our ultimate goal. The final aim is praise: ***"let the peoples praise you, God."***

**Pastor and author John Piper famously wrote in his book on missions:**

> *"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't.*[1]

Piper goes on to say that when this age is over and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more —it is a temporary necessity, but worship abides forever.

**Our ultimate goal must be God's honor,** not blessings for us, or obedience to the Great Commission, or even love for lost people. What propels us to share our faith in Jesus is a passion for worship; we want the whole world to praise the one, true God.

That's also the fire that convinces people to leave their homes here among friends, family, and the familiar to cross borders and live among people they do not know, even those who are openly hostile.

A missionary heart has been captured by Habakkuk's vision:

> *Habakkuk 2:14 (CSB) … the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD's glory, as the water covers the sea.*

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[1] Let the Nations Be Glad! By John Piper. Baker, 3rd ed. 2010, p. 35)

## A MISSIONARY CHURCH

**The Cornerstone Church was founded in May 1997.** By October that year, we began supporting two missionaries in Olongapo City, Philippines.

Why? From day one, our vision for the church was this: *"In eternity, around the throne of God, thousands of worshippers will be brought there by the people of Cornerstone Church."*

**That's the Revelation 7:9-10 vision.** Because of it, we wanted to reach out to the Blue Water community AND to the nations. We wanted to be a missionary church, a church that shares the gospel in its meetings and online, a church that shares Jesus with family and friends, neighbors and coworkers, and a church that supports those who share the gospel in places we cannot go.

Today, we support outreach or mission workers in the Blue Water community and around the world. You can pick up a list of our missionaries at the Welcome Center and use it in your prayers.

**If the idea of a missionary God,** a missionary church, and a missionary heart is new to you (or if you've put it on the back burner for whatever reason), can I invite you to embrace it either for the first time or once again? One way is to pray:

- Pray for the Cornerstone to be faithful in sharing Jesus and supporting missionaries.
- Pray for our missionaries and outreach ministries.
- Pray for yourself: Ask for a growing love for God and a desire for his praise among all people. Ask for open doors to share Jesus. And ask the Lord if he wants you to step into vocational missionary work.

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use any or all of the following questions to guide your group's conversation about Sunday's sermon.

**Read Psalm 67.**

**Observation — What Does the Bible Say?**

Read Psalm 67:1–2. What does the writer ask God to do for his people, and how does verse 2 connect those requests to people beyond their own community?

As you look through Psalm 67, what words or ideas repeat? What do those repetitions draw your attention to?

**Interpretation — What Does It Mean?**

How does the "SO THAT" at the beginning of verse 2 help us know what fuels a missionary heart?

The sermon says, "Salvation for the nations is not our ultimate goal. The final aim is praise" (verses 3-5). Do you agree or disagree? Explain. How does that change your perspective on sharing your faith and on mission work?

**Application — What Changes in Everyday Life?**

Read Ephesians 6:19–20. Think of someone you regularly see at work, in your family, or in your neighborhood. What might a natural, respectful conversation about Jesus look like with that person, and what would you ask the group to pray for beforehand?

When you picture people from every nation worshiping God together in Revelation 7:9–10, what stirs in you—and where do you notice a gap between that picture and your own desires or priorities?

Pray, asking the Lord to make the Revelation 7 vision a reality very soon.